

Article 5:
Appropriate Funds for
Cochituate Rail Trail Design

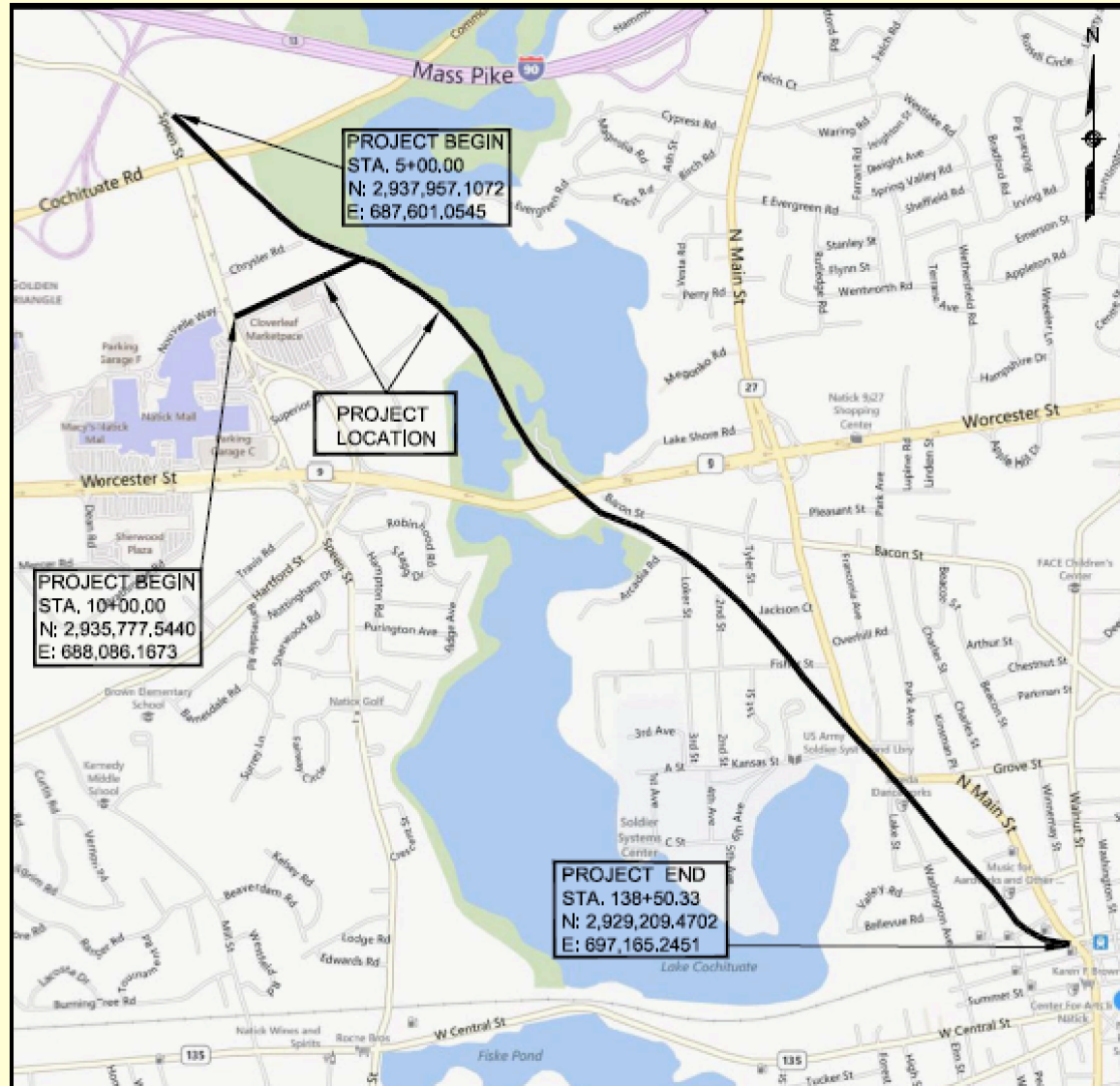
Article 5

1. Overview of Cochituate Rail Trail project
2. Review of appropriations/expenditures
3. Design, acquisition and construction
4. Source of funds for Article 5
5. Framingham section
6. Next steps

1. CRT Overview

- 4 mile multi-use trail from Natick Center to Saxonville (2.5 miles in Natick)
- Connect transportation, recreation, cultural, residential and commercial destinations
- Includes “Wonderbread Spur” to the Natick Mall
- Passenger rail service ended 1936
- Freight service ended 2005
- CSX “abandoned” 2006
- BoS established advisory committee 2006

1. CRT project area



1. Reports and studies

- Preliminary report 2006
- Abutter report 2007
- Community meeting 2008
- Conceptual design 2010
- Shared transit use report 2012
- Survey and wetlands reports 2013
- Appraisals 2007, 2010, 2013
- 25% Design submission 2014

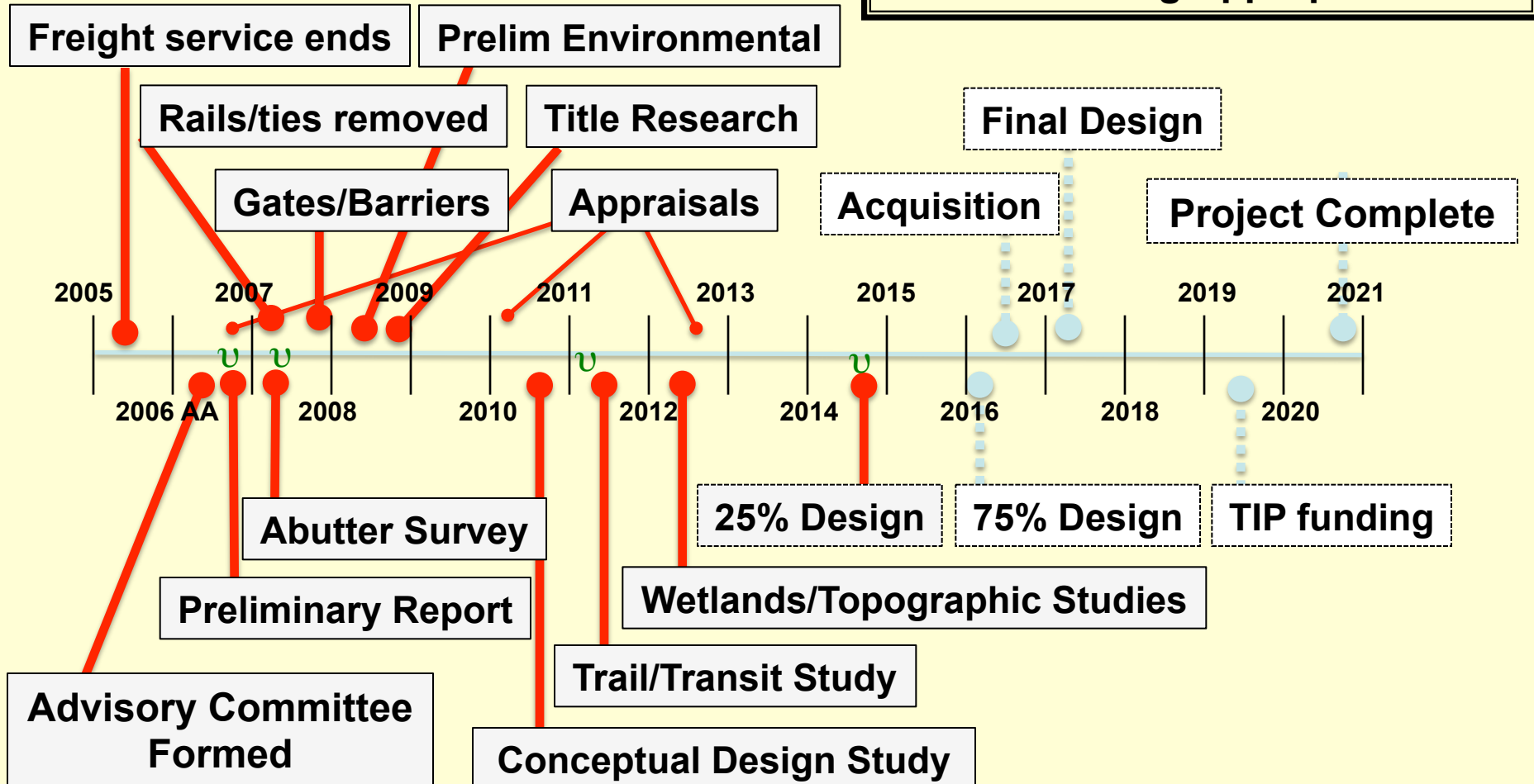
CRT Timeline

Legend

Completed

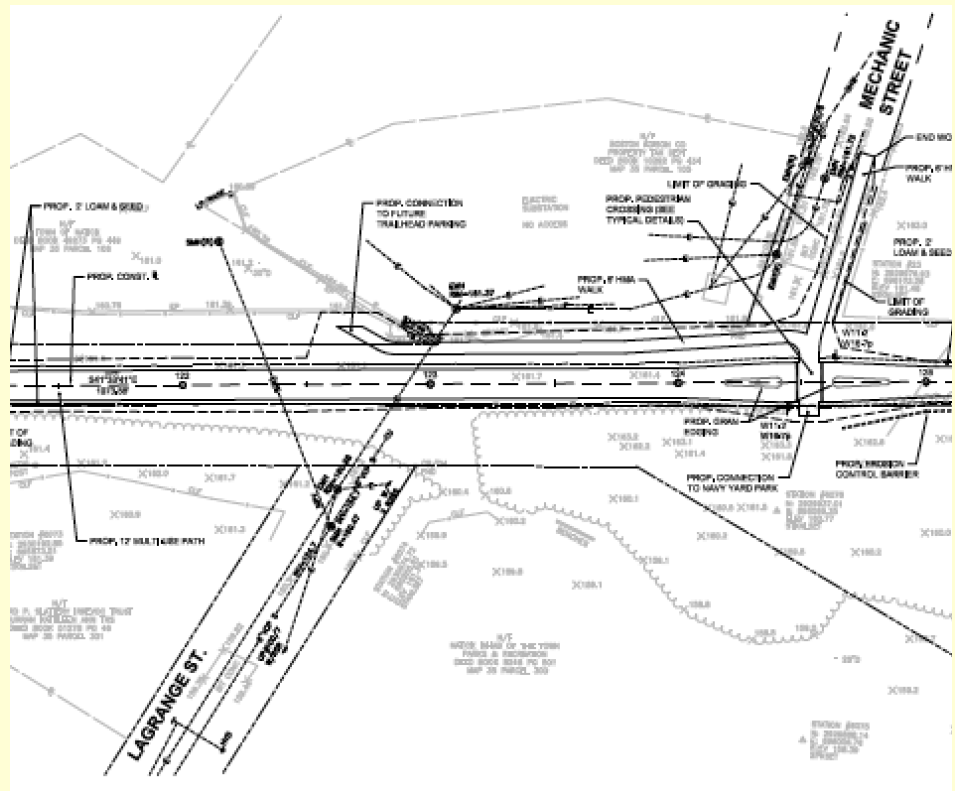
Estimated

u Town Meeting Appropriations



25% Design: horizontal detail, profiles, cross sections

- Horizontal Layout
- Profile Studies
- Cross sections/grading
- Pav't markings/Signage
- Detour plans
- Construction cost estimate

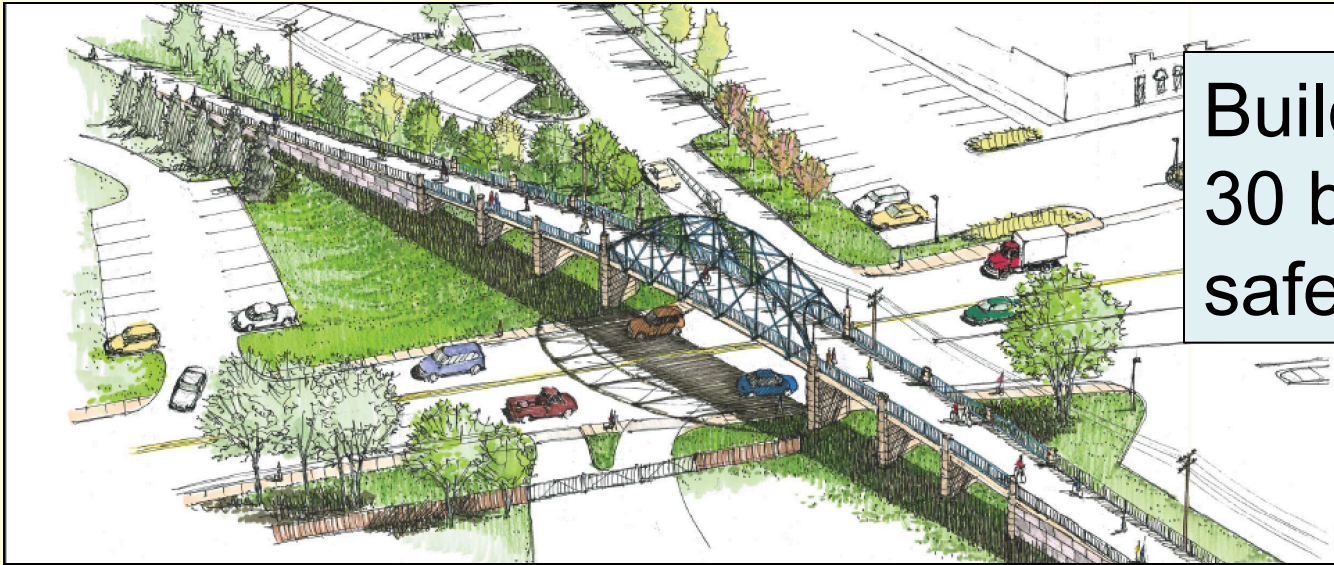


25% Design: checklist, Right of Way and inventory

- Permitting “starting line”
- Preliminary Right of Way
- Environmental coordination
- Stormwater management
- Coordination w/ MassDOT & DCR
- MassDOT project checklist
- Historic/cultural inventory

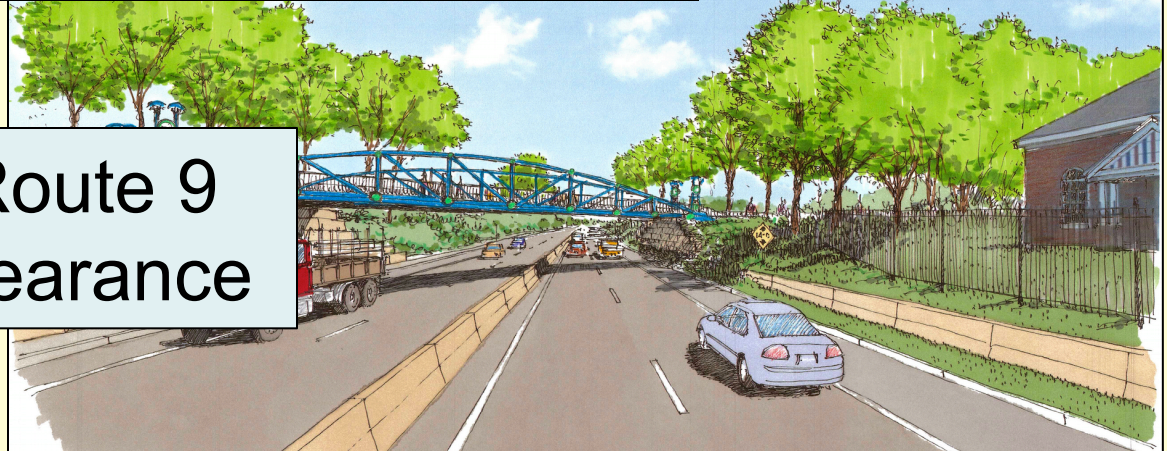


25% Design: bridge studies



Build new Route 30 bridge for safety/traffic flow

Replace existing Route 9 bridge for 16' 6" clearance



2. Appropriations

Town Meeting	Amount	Source
Dec. 2006 Special	\$107,250	\$500,000 MassHighway, General Growth Mitigation
Spring 2007	\$30,000	
Spring 2011	\$362,750	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Unexpended appropriations approx. \$61,000</i>• <i>Must be spent by January 2018 (extended from 2013)</i>		
Fall 2014 (Requested)	\$300,000	Planning Board Mall Mitigation and Smart Growth funds

2. Expenditures

Summary	Year	Amount
Title research	2007	\$7,245
Security/events/misc.	2007-2008	\$4,269
Appraisals	2007-2013	\$15,035
Environmental	2008	\$4,200
Conceptual Design	2009-2010	\$30,000
Transit/Trail report	2012	\$45,480
Topographic survey	2012-2013	\$75,000
Wetlands delineation	2012-2013	\$11,000
25% Design	2013-2014	\$186,323
Rt 30 Bridge study/geotech	2014	\$60,000

3. Synchronize design/ acquisition/construction

- Town responsible for transportation project design to qualify for construction funding
- MassDOT must approve 75% design before approving property acquisition
- With 25% design and project notification, CRT pre-qualified for construction funding on the Transportation Improvement Program (“2019”)

3. Synchronize design/ acquisition/construction

- There are no guarantees
- State and federal funding is competitive
- CRT is consistent with state goals:
 - Regional transit, bike/pedestrian (mode shift)
 - Housing and economic development
 - Military base enhancement
 - Environmental and health
- Forward progress + advocacy are essential

4. Source of funding

- **\$100,000 Planning Board Natick Mall mitigation** for signalized Route 30 crossing: 10/8 voted as minor modification to not require signal (bridge in 25% design)
- **\$200,000 Smart Growth/Ch. 40R funds** for Natick Paperboard development
 - Town will receive \$614,000 (unrestricted)
 - Staff reco: apply funds in project vicinity
 - Recreation, public works, public safety

5. Framingham section

- 1.5 miles, opening 2015
- Funded through sewer expansion, TIP
- Did not require CSX acquisition
 - Long term lease from MBTA/MassDOT
- Natick has supported Framingham project; we may request reciprocal support

6. Next steps: Design

- MassDOT evaluating 25% design
- MassDOT may request changes
- Public hearing likely early 2015
- Outreach to abutters
- Consider RFP/contract for final design
- Consider additional appropriations if needed

6. Next steps: Acquisition

- Continue CSX negotiations
- Outreach to other property owners
- Pursue \$3mm transportation bond bill authorization
- DCR PARC grant (Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities)
- Submit 75% design to MassDOT ROW
- Review Zoning Bylaws to facilitate use of Conservation Fund

6. Next steps: Construction

- Must complete design and acquire ROW
- Estimated cost \$5.39mm (25% design)
- CRT currently on TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) for 2019
 - Similar process as Oak/9, 27/9, 27 North
- Competitive funding environment
- 80/20 Federal/State funding match
- Pursue alternative/supplemental funding

Motion

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$300,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission for design and related services for the proposed Cochituate Rail Trail, and that the sum of \$300,000 be raised from \$100,000 of Natick Mall Mitigation Fees and \$200,000 of Chapter 40R “Smart Growth” incentive payments from the commonwealth.

(Positive action requires majority vote)